

# Tin and Lead Coins from Brunei.

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With Plate III.

The curious tin and lead coins from Brunei, Borneo, described below, were, with one exception, exhibited at the Kuala Kangsar Agricultural Show, August, 1907, by Mr. Edmund Roberts, of the P. W. D., Labuan, and subsequently presented by him, on behalf of Pangeran Shabander, of Brooketon, Brunei, to the Raffles Museum, Singapore. They had been found in an earthenware jar, buried two or three feet below the surface, at Brooketon, in July, 1907. A number of coins were in the jar, but most of them were seized by natives and cannot now be found. Those which reached the Raffles Museum were of two types only. A few months later Mr. Roberts presented to the Museum a third kind of coin which he had found when clearing the site for the Brunei residency, in 1906.

The first two coins differ only slightly from each other; one of them is of a simpler design and in a less perfect state of preservation, so that it may be considered as the older one. It is 36 mm. in diameter, 1 mm. in thickness and weighs 5·9 grammes (see pl. III, fig. 1). It is more or less of pure tin, its specific gravity being 7·5 (that of tin is 7·29). Its obverse shows a recumbent buffalo, minus its horns, with erect tail, the space between the figure and the edge of the coin being filled up by circles, cloud-like scrolls, and dots.

The reverse bears an inscription, in Malay characters, which is arranged in what Lane Poole\* calls the "mill-sail pattern," a pattern which is met with on Persian and other coins, the writing being placed within the four arms of the sail-wheel. The division into four fields is effected by a line which starts from near the centre of the coin, runs parallel

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\* See O. Codrington, *A Manual of Musalman Numismatics*, London, 1904, p. 17.

and somewhat to one side of the radius, then turns along the periphery, follows it for nearly 90°, runs back along the next radius, and having thus enclosed the first field which is somewhat smaller than a quadrant, crosses the centre and continues to form a second, third and fourth field, within the second, third and fourth quadrants respectively. The inscription is

سلطان العادل ملك الظاهر

or in Romanized characters:

Sultan ul-adil malik ul-dhahir,

*i.e.* The just Sultan, the acknowledged Ruler.

I am indebted to Mr. M. Hellier for kindly deciphering this coin for me. Unfortunately neither the year nor the name of the sultan is given, nor have I any other data to fix even approximately the age and the origin of the coin. There were four specimens of it.

The second type (see pl. III, fig. 2) is practically of the same size as the first one; viz. 36 mm. in diameter and 1 mm. in thickness, and is only slightly lighter, viz. 5·7 grammes. It is also of tin. It may be of later date as it is better preserved and its design is somewhat more elaborate. There is only one specimen of it.

The obverse shows again the figure of a recumbent buffalo, but with the tail curled downwards. The buffalo with its scroll work is enclosed by a circle, the space between the circle and the margin of the coin, about 4 mm. across, being filled up by a zig-zag line.

The reverse contains the same inscription as the first coin, also arranged in mill-sail pattern. Like the figure on the obverse, the inscription is enclosed by a circular line, the space between the latter and the margin of the coin containing a series of dots.

The third coin, found by Mr. Roberts when clearing the site for the Brunei residency, in 1906, is of lead. It measures 30 mm. in diameter, 1·5 mm. in thickness and weighs 10·6 grammes (see pl. III, fig. 3). Its specific gravity is 10·1, that

of pure lead being 11'37, the slight difference probably being due to impurities and oxidation.

The obverse shows the (yellow) State umbrella, one of the insignia of Malay royalty, surmounted by the Sultan's (yellow) flag. The other leaf-like ornamentations have probably no special significance.

The reverse bears the inscription

اینله تیتہ  
فرنتہ کمفقانن  
کاتس بلنجا نگرہ  
برونی تاریخ  
۱۲۸۵

or in Romanized characters

Inilah titah  
perintah kamuafak-  
atan ka'atas belanja  
Negri Brunei ta-  
rikh y  
1285

meaning

By order  
of the administration  
of the Finances  
of the State of Brunei  
date 1868.

The dates 1285 and 1868 refer, of course, to the Hejira and to the Christian era respectively, and Abdul Mumin was Sultan of Brunei at that time.

I am indebted to the united efforts of the Rev. Dr. Luer ing and of Messrs. Hellier, McArthur and Elcum for deciphering this coin for me.

Although this coin is of such a recent date, only forty years old, I have not been able to discover any more specimens of it. The only other Brunei coin known to me is the copper cent, dated 1304 A. H. (= 1886 A. D.), which until recently was current in Singapore too.

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### Explanation of Plate III.

(N. B. All figures are reproduced in natural size).

Fig.	1. Obverse of tin coin	See page	111
Fig.	1A. Reverse of the same	" "	111
Fig.	2. Obverse of tin coin	" "	112
Fig.	2A. Reverse of the same	" "	112
Fig.	3. Obverse of lead coin	" "	112
Fig.	3A. Reverse of the same	" "	113



FIG. 1.



FIG. 1A.



FIG. 3.



FIG. 3A.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 2A.